

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th August 1896.

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URIYA PAPERS.

Nil.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	5,000	22nd August 1896. 25th ditto. 21st ditto. 22nd ditto. 19th ditto. 21st ditto. 22nd ditto. 24th ditto.	Temporarily discontinued from May, 1896.
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000		
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800		
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000		
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	2,500		
6	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	.....		
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500		
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000		
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000		
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800		
Daily.					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	About 350	20th, 22nd and 24th to 27th August, 1896.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	20th and 23rd to 27th August, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Frabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	25th and 27th August, 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200	21st, 22nd and 24th to 27th August, 1896.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	17th, 20th to 22nd, 24th and 25th August, 1896.	
HINDI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	20th August, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	17th and 24th August 1896.	
PERSIAN.					
Weekly.					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	.....		



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta ...	310	20th August, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	330	24th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	450		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	About 250	18th August, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	550	23rd ditto.	
3	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,145	21st ditto.	
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	826	19th August, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	21st ditto.	
<b>URIYA.</b>					
<b>ORISSA DIVISION.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	160		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480		
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<b>PATNA DIVISION.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	22nd August, 1896.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	20th August, 1896.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	17th ditto.	

Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.



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	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>	<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>			
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	19th August, 1896.	
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500		It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>	<b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>			
	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244		
	<b>BENGALI—coacld.</b>	<b>DACCA DIVISION—conctd.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	17th August, 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	23rd ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440	22nd ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	240	20th ditto.	
	<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	24th August, 1896.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>CHITTAGONG DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700	First and second fortnights of Asar, 1303 B.S.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>	<b>ASSAM.</b>			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....		



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *General and Gauhari Asfi* of the 24th August publishes a cartoon in which John Bull, seated on a camel's back, is represented as flying to Suakin after robbing India of her treasure. India is represented as an old woman beating her forehead.

GENERAL AND  
GAUHARI ASFI,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

A cartoon on the cost of the Suakin contingent.

The letter press runs as follows:—

India.—Help me, O Government! I have been robbed by dacoits. John Bull.—Hold thy tongue, dead as thou art! We are not dacoits! This present of money belongs to us; we are at liberty to spend it as we will. It is no more under thy control.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of *Asar* draws the attention of the District Magistrate of Tippera to the prevalence of theft and *gundaism* in Silaur, in the Brahmanbaria subdivision, as the Subdivisional Officer seems to have taken no action on a memorial on the subject which was sometimes ago addressed to him. The failure of the memorial has emboldened the *badmashes*.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,  
Second fortnight  
of Asar, 1303, B.S.

3. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 17th August complains of the prevalence of theft in Khagdahari, in the Mymensingh district, and says that the chaukidars seldom go out on rounds more than two nights during a whole year.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 17th, 1896.

4. A correspondent of the *Sahachar* of the 19th August complains of the prevalence of theft in Konnagar, in the Serampur subdivision of the Hooghly district. Some days ago a daring dacoity was committed by four men in the house of Hari Charan Gharui, and valuables worth about two hundred rupees were taken away. The wife of Hari Charan said next day that she believed the dacoits to have been Cabulis. The Joint-Magistrate should make a careful investigation into the case, as Cabulis are actually committing frequent thefts and dacoities in the mufassal.

SAHACHAR,  
Aug. 19th, 1896.

5. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 21st August, writing from the Senhati police in the Khulna district, gives the following proofs of the inefficiency of the local police:—

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

- (1) Those who plundered the house of Babu Akshaykumar Chatterji have not yet been apprehended, although they are living close to the village or within the village itself.
- (2) Fire is being set to different houses in the same village for three or four successive nights, without the police being able to prevent the crime.
- (3) In the cases of murder, hurt, riot and affray which have happened during the last three or four years in the village, the police has not been able to arrest the offenders, except where they were traced by the complainants themselves.
- (4) No enquiry has yet been made to ascertain whether the number of deaths during the late cholera epidemic reported by the chaukidars of the village is correct.

6. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 22nd August complains of recrudescence of theft in Panihati, in the 24-Parganas district. On the 16th August last there was a daring theft committed in the house of a woman in Malpara. The thieves fastened the doors of the neighbouring houses from the outside with the door chains, and then broke into the house of the woman in question. Not finding in the house what they expected, they began to mercilessly thrash the poor woman, and the neighbours, being confined within their houses, could not come to her rescue. A young man at last managed to appear on the scene, but the thieves beat him and broke his head. He is now in a critical condition. There

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

Thefts in Panihati, 24-Parganas.



SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

have been three or four cases of theft in Panihati within the last month, but in none of them have the culprits been traced.

7. A correspondent writes in the *Sanjivani* of the 22nd August that some time ago, one Prem Chand Nayek of Bandasarha, in the Garhbeta subdivision of the Midnapore district,

was decoyed by a cooly recruiter and sent up to an Assam tea-garden. On the 5th July last, the poor man wrote a letter to his mother, of which the following is a translation:—

"I came here on the 22nd March last. Fate is against me. Gumi Bhuan of Pratabpur took me to a cooly depôt under the pretext of finding out employment for me in Midnapore, and sold me there without my knowledge! Let me know how Biraja is. Please ask her not to be anxious on my account. Let me know how my uncle and aunt are doing. They have bound me down by a contract for three years. If I outlive that period, I shall go home and see you all."

PREM CHAND NAYEK,

*Dhalai Tea-garden, Adampur Post-office,  
District Sylhet.*

It is a great discredit to English rule that cooly-recruiting abuses should prevail in this country. It is, indeed, strange that the Government, which is known for its impartial and firm administration of justice, which has, so to speak, made the buffalo and the tiger drink water together, should fail to put down this abuse! It refrains from putting down the abuse, fearing lest that should injure the tea-planters. Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas are going to be depopulated, but still the Government does not abolish the Cooly Act. Once caught in the meshes of a cooly-recruiter, there is no escape for a man. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a God-fearing ruler. Will he, too, tolerate these cooly-recruiting abuses? If he, too, does not take pity on the helpless people, who will?

SANJIVANI.

8. The same paper complains against the Inspector of the Entally police-station, Calcutta. Three men came from

The Inspector of the Entally  
police-station, Calcutta.

Midnapore to Calcutta in search of employment.

As soon as they landed at the Armenian *ghât*, two of them, in the absence of the third, who was wiser, were decoyed by a cooly-recruiter and taken to the Kanthalbagan cooly-depôt. One of these two managed to escape, and informed the third man that his brother was confined in the cooly-depôt. The manager of the cooly depôt was asked to release the man, who was lodged there. The manager promised and promised, but did not release his victim. The men then came to the *Sanjivani* office on the 19th August last. The *Sanjivani* people sent the brother of the man, confined in the cooly-depôt, to the Entally police-station in the company of one of the office staff. The Inspector was asked to take down the man's deposition, but he refused to do so, and referred him to the Sealdah Police Court. He was told that the man was too poor to pay the cost of making an application to the Police Court, but the Inspector made no answer, and asked the men to go away, as they had nothing to do there. The gentleman from the *Sanjivani* office was going to say something in reply, when he was interrupted by the Inspector: "I don't like," said he, "to hear anything from you; you better go out."

The writer draws the attention of the Police Commissioner to the conduct of this Police Inspector. In his Barisal speech, the Lieutenant-Governor observed that if the public did not co-operate with the police, the latter could not put down lawlessness and crime. Let His Honour now see how people are ill-treated if they try to co-operate with it. The Cooly Commission has attributed the cooly-recruiting abuses to the ignorance of the coolies. It ought to have attributed it also to the inefficiency and apathy of the police.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Aug. 23rd, 1896.

9. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 23rd August says that in the course of the investigation into the case of theft, which was committed last year in the house of the Gangulis of Rusdi, in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district, suspicion fell on Umed Ali Munshi, chaukidar of

An offending chaukidar in the  
Dacca district.



Dakshin Charigaon, and a search having been made of his house, a manuscript book was found, which was alleged to have been among the stolen articles. In spite of this incriminating evidence, the man was discharged by the police. But subsequently Atal Huq, Inspector of Munshiganj, himself went to investigate the matter, and being convinced of the guilt of the man, expressed an intention of sending him up. But he had to give up his intention because the manuscript book was missing from the thana. He, however, still expressed a wish to departmentally report against the chaukidar and have him dismissed. But as he himself shortly retired on pension, the chaukidar still keeps his post.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

10. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first fortnight of *Asar* says that touts are as numerous and rampant in the civil courts in Comilla as they were before the passing of the new law against them. Sometime ago the pleaders requested the Judge to publish a list of touts; but on the Judge asking the pleaders for names, the matter seems to have been dropped. The pleaders of Comilla seem to possess very little moral backbone.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,  
for the first fortnight  
of *Asar*, 1303, (B.S.)

11. The same paper is rather surprised that Mr. Radice should have convicted and fined a high officer like the Subordinate Judge of Comilla, who had struck a man with a *lathi* on provocation. Mr. Radice admitted the plea of provocation, but held that the provocation was not of so grave a nature as to warrant the Subordinate Judge's beating the man. The man intercepted the Subordinate Judge on a public street, and would not withdraw even when called upon to do so. At this, the insulted gentleman struck him on the leg with his stick. Was it conduct so unjustifiable that one coming to know of it magisterially could not help punishing it? Do not even common Europeans often beat their servants without provocation and escape scot free in the law courts? Mr. Radice convicted the Subordinate Judge without even allowing his pleader to address the court. It is also somewhat mysterious that the Magistrate transferred the case from the file of an Honorary Bench to his own, and that on a holiday.

TRIPURA PRAKASH.

12. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of *Asar* says that Babu Govinda Chandra Basak, Deputy Magistrate of Comilla, who is notorious for abusing people who come to his court, asked a Maulvi, who came to his court the other day as a witness, what the age of a certain goat was. On the Maulvi's confessing his inability to answer the question, the Deputy Magistrate called all pandits and Maulvis asses. The Maulvi has served a notice upon the Deputy Magistrate informing him of his intention to bring an action for defamation against him.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,  
for the second fortnight of *Asar*, 1303,  
(B.S.)

13. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 17th August draws attention to the inconvenience which is felt by parties and witnesses for want of a waiting-room at the Bajitpur Munsifi in the Mymensingh district. If the First Munsif represents the matter to the District Judge, the latter will certainly sanction a grant for the construction of a waiting-room. The revenue which Government derives from this Munsifi amounts to thirty thousand rupees per annum.

14. The *Sahachar* of the 19th August writes as follows:—  
Sometime ago the Lieutenant-Governor said that it was only the junior civilians who interfered with the judicial independence of their Subordinate Magistrates, but that with age and increased experience they grew wiser and ceased to exercise any undue influence in judicial matters over their subordinate judiciary. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a godlike man, who probably thinks that an experienced European Magistrate cannot do so wrong an act. But it is certain that he will, in the course of his administration of Bengal, find such a fault in many experienced officers of exalted position. The case must be a bad one, when even an old, experienced and highly-placed officer like Mr. Westmacott is unable to free himself from this fault. His Honour has only to read that officer's annual reports for a satisfactory proof of

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 17th, 1896.



that failing in Mr. Westmacott's character as an officer. Mr. Westmacott takes the Subordinate Magistracy to task for acquitting or inadequately punishing prisoners in a large percentage of police cases sometimes by, as he says, scrutinizing evidence too closely and some times from a fear of their sentences being reversed by the Appellate Courts. Mr. Westmacott does not also hesitate to cast reflections on the higher courts. To these courts he attributes the fault of acquitting prisoners in murder and other serious cases in consequence of their inability to weigh and sift evidence. Only the other day a Deputy Magistrate and some Honorary Magistrates of Krishnagar were taken to task by their Magistrate in consequence of the statement made in regard to them by Mr. Westmacott that they acquitted more men than they convicted. Spirited Deputy Magistrates like Babu Atul Chandra Chatterji, who can act according to their conscience in spite of remarks and reflections from above are not to be met with everywhere, and the result of Mr. Westmacott's strictures will be that failures of justice will become more numerous.

SAHACHAR,  
Aug. 19th, 1896.

15. The same paper strongly objects to Mr. Brett's proposal to remove the Monghyr Subordinate Judge's Courts to Bhagalpur. When three successive Lieutenant-Governors refused to sanction their removal, Mr. Brett ought to see that they did so on good and sufficient grounds. The reasons urged by Mr. Brett in support of his proposal possess no force. One fails to see any sense in the Judge's one-building argument. Nor is it likely that the resulting inconvenience will not affect more than ten to twelve thousand people. And why should even 10 or 12 thousand people be unnecessarily put to any inconvenience? Mr. Brett also says that the removal will enable the District Judge of Bhagalpur to exercise proper supervision over all the Subordinate Judges' Courts under him. But when every District Judge has to inspect, from time to time, all Munsifs' Courts under him, and even the High Court Judges have occasionally to go out to inspect the mufassal courts, why should it be troublesome to the District Judge of Bhagalpur to go to Monghyr now and then to inspect the Subordinate Judges' Courts there?

The best thing to do for the Monghyr people would be to free them from the trouble of going to Bhagalpur to file every appeal by empowering their two Subordinate Judges to receive all applications for appeal, as is the case in Khulna, where, too, there is no District Judge's Court.

SAMAY,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

16. The *Samay* of the 21st August has the following on the Burdis case:—  
In this case the accused was a European, the Judge who tried him was a European, and most of the jurors who helped the Judge were also Europeans. They were all, we must take it for granted, incarnations of kindness, justice and truth. On the other side, the complainant was a native woman and her witnesses were all black men. This being the case, it does not require much ingenuity to imagine what could naturally be the result of the case. The five European jurors declared the accused not "guilty." The Judge accepted their verdict and acquitted him. The complainant, who had already lost her honour, chastity and reputation, was now, in a court of justice, marked as a lying prostitute who had sold her chastity for a few pice.

But the matter did not end here. The Judge in giving his charge to the jury passed libellous and vilifying remarks on Indian women as a class—remarks which are sure to excite the just indignation of every true Indian. Indian women, he observed, are quite willing to sell their chastity for a few annas, but if they are caught in the act by their friends or relatives, they try to clear themselves by raising a hue-and-cry and by shifting the whole blame on to the shoulders of their paramours. A conquered and down-trodden people as we are, what answer shall we give to this vilifying Judge? But we say this plainly and fearlessly—and history and tradition will bear us out—that the Indian woman values chastity far more than any other woman in the world. English women can sit at her feet in order to learn the value of chastity. The Judge was quite at liberty to acquit the prisoner on the strength of the evidence submitted to him and the verdict of the majority of the jurors. But what right or reason had he to libel the women of a whole nation? His unjust and unwarranted remarks have created a sensation among the people of the North-Western Provinces. And no wonder.



It appears from the Judge's remarks that he was from the very beginning prejudiced against the complainant. Even if it be true that she sold her chastity for a few annas, it is quite impossible that she allowed a European soldier to have sexual intercourse with her in broad daylight in an open place by the roadside. Even prostitutes, steeped and hardened in vice, would shrink from acting so shamelessly, and is it at all likely that the complainant, who was a married woman, would do what a public prostitute would not? We hope and trust that the people of the North-Western Provinces will enter a strong protest against the unjust and libellous remarks of Mr. Justice Blennerhasset, so that no other Judge may in future have the hardihood to vilify native women. Raw, headstrong and inexperienced Judges of the class of Blennerhasset are bringing British justice into discredit, and shaking the confidence of the Indian people in the impartiality of British Judges.

17. The same paper has the following:—

SAMAY,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

A riot case in the North-Western Provinces.

One Panip Singh mortgaged a garden to one Gokul Singh for twenty rupees. Gokul took possession of the garden and enjoyed it on the condition that he would demand no interest for the money lent. This year Panip paid off his debt and also paid ten rupees as interest for two years, during which time the garden was not in the possession of his creditor. After this, Panip applied to the Court for the cancelling of the name of Gokul as the owner of the garden. Summonses were issued against him, but he did not appear, and a warrant was therefore issued against him. Before the trial of the case, however, Panip went to take possession of the garden. Gokul interfered and assaulted Panip and beat him. Panip, who had a dozen men with him, retaliated. There was a free fight in which Gokul and his son Haraprasad were killed.

The Judge agreeing with the assessors has convicted Panip and twelve others and sentenced them all to death. He argues that Panip must have anticipated opposition from Gokul, and that is the reason why he went to take possession of the garden with twelve other men. He had clearly rioting in view. Gokul, it is also argued, is an old man, and the blow he dealt to Panip was not likely to be at all a heavy one. Panip ought to have treated it lightly, but he did not do so. Is this argument quite logical or legal? According to the Indian Penal Code there is an unlawful assembly only when five or more persons meet together with the common object of committing a wrong action. It is not an unlawful assembly even if a hundred persons gather anywhere with a lawful object in view. Panip had redeemed his garden. It had now become his own property. He had gone to the garden to plough it and with no other object in view. Even if it be true that Panip had collected a dozen men with the object of preventing Gokul from opposing his taking possession of the garden, what harm was there? If it is an offence to defend one's property against trespassers, it is equally an offence to drive out dacoits by force. Gokul trespasses into my garden, opposes my taking possession of it, and beats me, but I must for all that, remain perfectly inactive and must not defend myself and my property, because, forsooth, he is an old man and has not strength enough to do me severe bodily harm.

Let us imagine a case. Mr. Henry, let us suppose, is an indigo-planter, who mortgages a piece of land to Panip for one hundred rupees. Panip is allowed to enjoy the land in lieu of interest on the money lent. In the January of 1896, let us suppose, Mr. Henry redeems his property by paying off his debt, and forthwith proceeds to take possession of it, accompanied by a score of men. Panip opposes Mr. Henry and strikes him. Upon this Mr. Henry fires at Panip and kills him.

Now, if in this imaginary case the Judge convicted Mr. Henry of murder, would he not be hooted out of the society of his countrymen? And would he be blamed if he acquitted the prisoner? We make use of this imaginary case, because, put in this way, it is most likely to readily appear to the European Judge's understanding and reason. Europeans figure more than natives in cases in which they are said to have killed people in self-defence.



SAMAY,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

18. Referring to the reply of the Government to the interpellation regarding the conduct of a Magistrate who compelled a Deputy Magistrate under him to send to *hajat* prisoners whom he had enlarged on bail, the same paper makes the following observations:—

An instance of executive interference with judicial independence.

Are we to understand that the Magistrates are to be blindly led by the police? Is a Magistrate a tool in the hands of the police, and is he to send prisoners to *hajat* because the police wants him to do so? Has he no right to exercise his discretion? The prisoners in the case under notice have been acquitted after a proper trial. Is it quite unreasonable to suppose that the Magistrate had formed an idea of the case before he proceeded with it, and that he had considered himself justified in releasing the prisoners on bail? It is not rare with Magistrates to form an idea of a case from the deposition of witnesses for the prosecution and their cross examination by the defence. An experienced Deputy Magistrate once told the writer that a Magistrate who could not form an idea of a case from the deposition of witnesses and their cross-examination was not worth the salt he ate. The law has given a Magistrate the discretion to enlarge a prisoner or not on bail. But what the law has given is going to be taken away by the executive authorities. The executive authorities say that a Magistrate must send a prisoner to *hajat* whom the police sends up for trial in the A form. What an order! As the Government in its reply to the interpellation remained silent on this point, the Subordinate Magistrates are sure to carry out the order of the executive authorities.

Seven or eight years ago Syama Charan Babu, an experienced Deputy Magistrate, enlarged a prisoner on bail after framing a charge of theft against him. The Divisional Commissioner demanded an explanation, and the Deputy Magistrate said that the case was of a doubtful and simple nature, in which, even if a conviction were arrived at, the punishment could be only a fine of ten rupees; and that as the prisoner was a man of means and position, he considered himself justified in granting the prisoner bail, although the letter of the law was against him. Syama Charan Babu, we need hardly say, was not dismissed.

PRATIKAR,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

19. The *Pratihar* of the 21st August says that though the two munsifs in the Sadar station of the Murshidabad district are considerably overworked, additional work has been thrown upon them by putting on their files the work of two more thanas. This has seriously inconvenienced suitors by increasing postponements. The two files cannot be cleared without an additional munsif posted at least for some time.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

20. The *Hitavadi* of the 21st August will say nothing about the Allahabad rape case beyond this that the sighs of each such wronged woman are enough to bring destruction upon hundreds of people. The injustice done in each such case shakes the the loyalty of crores of subjects. Those who, influenced by a partiality for their countrymen, save the brutal perpetrators of such wrongs, will have to suffer some day or other for countenancing such sins.

HITAVADI.

21. The same paper has received the following letter from Soori anent the proceedings of Babu Bansidhar Roy, Deputy Magistrate of Birbhum, in the case of Kailas Chandra Saha against Gangadhar Sarnakar, and in that of Kailash's wife, Elokeshi, against her husband;—"On the 30th July last, the accused, Gangadhar Sarnakar, was acquitted in Kailas's case under section 498 of the Indian Penal Code. The case of Kailas's wife against Kailas under section 324 of the same code is pending. Judgment will probably be delivered on Monday next. Kailas's witnesses have been examined. The charge against the accused in this case was framed before the deposition of the witnesses of the complainant, Elokeshi, was taken. Then the accused's witnesses were examined, and now the complainant's witnesses are being examined. I will let you know as soon as judgment is delivered. There is no written order regarding the proceedings which Bansi Babu instituted on taking Elokeshi's deposition. The Deputy Babu says in his report—"I have destroyed those papers." Since the Deputy Magistrate says this, we contend that the accused in that case is discharged. A petition was made to the Deputy Magistrate contending that a fresh case, under section 324, could not be conducted on the strength of

Babu Bansidhar Roy, Deputy  
Magistrate of Birbhum.



that deposition, and it contained a prayer for copies of the papers of the previous case. The Deputy Magistrate has passed no order on that petition. Dasarath having instituted a case against Kailas under sections 342—35 on a charge of having beaten Elokeshi and kept her locked up, the Saheb referred it to the police for investigation. I subjoin the following extract from the report submitted by the police :—‘ Disgusted with Elokeshi’s character, her father no longer takes any notice of her. Ganganarain Sarnakar, now that he has won over Elokeshi’s uncle (Dasarath), seems to have got this petition made with the view of enabling Elokeshi to come out of Kailas’s house. The petitioner is a bad man. His character and circumstances are not good. Owing to my being acquainted with his circumstances beforehand, he did not appear before me on the scene of the enquiry, but secretly encouraged his case.’ It is not a little strange that the Deputy Magistrate placed Elokeshi under the custody of an uncle with such a character.” The allegations against Bansidhar Babu are very serious. Will the Lieutenant-Governor enquire ?

22. Referring to Lord George Hamilton’s statement that the separation of judicial and executive functions would be a costly affair, the *Bangavasi* of the 22nd August observes that this was only an excuse. There will be an end of the matter if the Government plainly speaks out the truth. But it seems to be the very essence of modern policy not to be plain and outspoken. Plain speaking, however, will be more welcome. Want of plain speaking only serves to increase the fears and suspicions of the people.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

23. Referring to the Burdis case, the same paper says that it is doubtful whether the Judge really said what he is reported to have said. It will be a relief if it is shown that the report of the Judge’s remarks has not been a faithful report. A man who can make such observations as the Judge is alleged to have made is not a gentleman. And a man who is not a gentleman is not fit to be a Judge in a court of justice of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress.

BANGAVASI

24. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 22nd August has the following on the Burdis case :—

SULABH DAINIK,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

The Judge in the Burdis case. Mr. Justice Blennerhasset has cast a slur on Indian women as a class. If any other man had said this, he would have made himself liable to punishment under section 500 of the Indian Penal Code. But how is Mr. Justice Blennerhasset to be dealt with? Englishmen are known for their chivalry. But is not this Judge an Englishman? How could he then libel Indian women in this cowardly fashion? As a Judge he was trying a case. If the evidence recorded by him was in favour of the accused, he was at liberty to acquit him. But why this unwarranted and uncalled for libel of a sweeping nature on Indian women? All that the Judge might have been warranted to say was that the complainant had sold her chastity to the accused for a few annas. But he lowered the dignity of the High Court by thus libelling the women of a community wholesale. It is a pity that a High Court Judge should have so little control over his tongue. It was so long our impression that High Court Judges were men of culture. That impression has now received a rude shock. There have been rape cases against Europeans. Take, for instance, the case of Rajabala Vaishnavi, in which the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court sentenced the accused to five years’ rigorous imprisonment. If Mr. Justice Blennerhasset’s sweeping remarks are true, Chief Justice Petheram was wrong! But we do not think he was wrong. Those who are bad cannot but think that others are bad as well.

But what was there, after all, to justify the Judge in passing these remarks on Indian women? Is it so very rare for Europeans to commit rape on Indian women? Was there any consent in the cases of Sukurmani and Rajabala? Did they fasten the guilt on their ravishers because they were caught by their friends or relatives? There are many rape cases on record in which the European accused have been convicted and punished. Can the Judge’s judicial experience justify his libel? We believe that this Judge is young and inexperienced and has no sense of responsibility. Otherwise, he could not have passed such remarks as these.

Has Mr. Justice Blennerhasset no common sense? Was it possible for a young girl belonging to a Hindu family to have allowed a European soldier



sexual intercourse with her in broad daylight, in an open space near a public thoroughfare? Even hardened prostitutes cannot act so shamelessly. Again, even if the accused was not guilty of rape, he was certainly guilty of indecency. Burdis ought to have been punished at least for decency's sake. But is it not in the line of the Allahabad High Court, presided over as it is by Sir John Edge, to convict European accused?

People are speaking variously about Mr. Justice Blennerhasset. They are asking, where did he get his knowledge about the selling of chastity by Indian women? Is he acquainted with those who are in the habit of purchasing that commodity? We have, however, no sympathy with such persons. We think that Mr. Justice Blennerhasset does not possess a cool temper and has no control over his tongue.

Sir Antony MacDonnell ought to do something to counteract the evil created by Mr. Justice Blennerhasset's reflections against Indian women. Otherwise, European soldiers will become so emboldened as to gratify their lust at the cost of the chastity of Indian women.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

25. The *Sanjivani* of the 22nd August complains against Mr. Roe, District Magistrate of Muzaffarpur. One Dukhit Koari complained against one Sew Balakhal, tahsildar of the Mircha Indigo Factory. The Magistrate, it is strange to say, sent up the case to the European manager of the factory for inquiry and report. The European manager naturally enough reported in favour of his tahsildar. The employes of indigo factories, it is well known to the readers of the *Nildarpan*, are instruments of oppression in the hands of indigo-planters, and it is no wonder that the indigo-planter in question should take the side of one of his subordinates. Mr. Roe absolutely relied on the report of the manager of the indigo factory in question, and dismissed the case. The Lieutenant-Governor in his Muzaffarpur speech said that the indigo-planters were on very good terms with the raiyats. Let His Honour now see how the raiyats fare in Tirhut under the indigo-planters, and how impossible it is for them to get justice at the hands of European Magistrates against the indigo-planters who oppress them. Native Magistrates are never posted to Muzaffarpur and the neighbouring districts, and European Magistrates always happen to be on intimate terms with the European planters. Impartial administration of justice becomes impossible under such circumstances.

SANJIVANI.

26. The Gauhati correspondent of the same paper complains against the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of Kamrup:—  
The Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, Kamrup, Assam.

Mr. Jackson, Assistant Commissioner of Kamrup, has made a novel interpretation of section 95 of the Indian Penal Code. A constable of the Sonarpur thana went to the local tea-garden to see a cooly acquainted with him. Upon this, Mr. Dombraine, Engineer of the tea-garden, and a few other employes beat him and confined him in a tea-godown. Mr. Dombraine then lodged a complaint at the *thana* against the constable, alleging that he was trying to induce the cooly to leave the garden. The constable, however, was declared innocent, and he lodged a complaint against Mr. Dombraine and others. The accused pleaded guilty, but Mr. Jackson acquitted them under section 95 of the Indian Penal Code.

Captain Gordon, the Deputy Commissioner, has made quite a different interpretation of the same section. Mr. Gilman, Manager of the Mandakatta Tea Estate, prosecuted two men for theft. The facts of the case are as follows:—The accused were passing through the said tea-garden and plucked a few leaves. The complainant deposed that these leaves were of no use, and their price was not more than a pice. The accused pleaded that they did not know that they were doing injury to any one by their act, and claimed acquittal under section 95. But the Magistrate convicted them, and fined them ten rupees each. This punishment struck even the complainant's pleader too heavy. The Deputy Commissioner sends cases of theft, unlawful assembly, &c., to the lower courts for trial, but tried this petty case himself. Before the trial, Mr. Gilman gave out that this would be done.

The vagaries of the Deputy Commissioner do not end here. Some of his men cut a few fruit trees of the owner of a garden while cutting grass and were rebuked by him. The offended grass-cutters complained against the



owner of the garden to their master, and the Deputy Commissioner made him pay the men five rupees as compensation. Danesh Muhammad, a man of position in Gauhati, went out to attend a meeting. Not seeing him back so late as 9 P.M., two of his servants went to the Deputy Commissioner's house in search of their master, thinking that the meeting may have been held there. The Deputy Commissioner's servants handed over the two men to the police, who found them innocent and released them. This did not satisfy the Deputy Commissioner, and he has ordered the Assistant Commissioner to investigate the case.

The Deputy Commissioner has passed an order preventing all but pleaders and mukhtars and their clients, from entering the court-room. This has prevented poor men who cannot afford to engage pleaders or mukhtars from lodging their complaints in the court.

27. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 24th August says that a raiyat of an indigo concern in Bihar having made a complaint before Mr. Macpherson, Magistrate of Champaran, to the effect that he was illegally confined and beaten by men belonging to the factory, Mr. Macpherson asked Mr. Marsham, Manager of the factory, to make an investigation and submit a report. The Manager reported the case to be false, and the Magistrate, accordingly, not only dismissed the case, but ordered a prosecution of the raiyat for having brought a false charge. Is not a proceeding like this enough to bring the name of a Magistrate into disrepute? He practically asked the accused party to hold an investigation into the complaint made against it and report on its truth and falsity, and accepted that report as correct! A weak party made a complaint of oppression against a strong party; and it was the strong accused who was asked by the authorities to decide the case! If this is not injustice, there is certainly no such thing as injustice in the world! But the strangest thing of all is that this farce of a trial has been enacted under the rule of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and a report of it is going the round of the press! The Lieutenant-Governor, however, will not connive at this judicial vagary, for he knows that an impartial judicial administration is the greatest glory of British rule in India, and His Honour will not on any account let that administration be discredited. Relying on his sense of justice, people should refrain from agitating the case either in the press or in the Legislative Council. For, though Sir Alexander Mackenzie is now on the heights of Darjeeling, yet, like the all-seeing sun, he keeps his eye on everything below.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

28. The *Som Prakash* of the 24th August cannot approve of Mr. Westmacott's action in trying to get Babu Syamadhub Rai, in supersession of the claims of Babu Nabin Chandra Sen, appointed Officiating Presidency Magistrate in the place of Nawab Syed Amir Hossein. Babu Nabin Chandra is not only a learned man and an able officer, but is senior to Babu Syamadhub, who has only recently been promoted to the fourth grade. The Lieutenant-Governor will not certainly do such an injustice simply to please Mr. Westmacott.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

29. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 27th August writes as follows:—

The Allahabad rape case.

Mr. Blennerhasset, a Judge of the Allahabad High Court, declared in the course of the hearing of the Allahabad rape case that low-class women in this country willingly commit adultery with soldiers, and, if detected by anybody, raise a cry, and complain of violence. No man but will be pained by such a remark by a Judge. Even respectable Anglo-Indians must be pained by such a remark. To traduce the character of every woman belonging to the poorer classes in any country ill becomes any gentleman, and it is more unbecoming in a Judge, and most unbecoming of all in a Judge of the High Court! We would therefore fain persuade ourselves that the Judge's remark has been incorrectly reported. But we cannot help taking the report as correct, seeing that not even the *Pioneer* has contradicted it.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 27th, 1896.

To let alone the Judge's remark, his decision has not given satisfaction to the people of this country. Hindu women refuse to proclaim their shame, even when they have been really wronged. It is therefore perfectly incredible that



a Hindu woman should falsely proclaim her own shame and thereby blight her life here and hereafter. There was also no reason to disbelieve the evidence of the two boys. The accused's comrade, Rowe, flatly contradicted in the sessions his incriminating evidence before the Cantonment Magistrate, and yet he was believed instead of being prosecuted for perjury. The English jurors have found a wrong verdict. The Judge has arrived at a wrong decision. Will there always be a failure of justice in the trial of English offenders? Will the list of such failures of justice compiled by Babu Ramgopal Sannyal, for ever go on swelling? We appeal to all right-minded and respectable Anglo-Indians to attend to this matter. It really pains us to see any stain on British justice.

(d)— Education.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 17th, 1896.

30. The *Charu Mihir* of the 17th August says that if the rumour that Sir Alfred Croft will be succeeded by a civilian

The question of Sir Alfred Croft's successor.

Director of Public Instruction proves correct, the atmosphere of the Education Department must not

be expected to remain as serene as it is now. One fails to see why a civilian guard should be placed at the door of the temple of education.

CHARU MIHIR.

31. The same paper says that Government will be doing an act of justice to the lower staff of the Education Department,

The pay of the lower teachers in the Education Department.

if, with the saving of Rs. 5,117, which will be effected by the re-organisation of the higher services,

it gives increments of pay to all teachers who receive less than fifty rupees a month. Any new arrangement that is made accrues to the advantage or benefit of the higher officers, but there is none to look after the welfare of the poorly paid men. Will not Sir Alfred Croft do something for them at the time of his leaving the country for good?

SAHACHAR.  
Aug. 19th, 1896.

32. The *Sahachar* of the 19th August fails to see why Government has

The Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction recommended for an honour.

not yet thought fit to confer some distinction on an able officer like Babu Ambika Charan Basu,

Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction. Babu Ambika Charan has been satisfactorily discharging the duties of the Director's office during Sir Alfred Croft's illness.

SAMAY,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

33. Nilmadhav Mitra writes in the *Samay* of the 21st August that the

The teacher of Physiology and Pathology in the Campbell Medical School.

new teacher of Physiology and Pathology in the Campbell Medical School is an incompetent man.

He read only two years in the Medical College, and then became an Assistant of Dr. Cunningham, in which capacity he had only to look after that Professor's apparatus and keep them in order. His mode of teaching is most unsatisfactory. He is drawing Rs. 100 a month, for which pay a qualified L. M. S. can be had. It is said that Sir Alfred Croft was against Babu Banamali Maitra's appointment, but had to yield to the pressure of recommendations from Dr. Cunningham and Dr. Gibbons.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

34. The *Hitavadi* of the 21st August is tired of writing about Dr. Bomford.

Dr. Bomford's new rules.

On the conclusion of one lecture the native students of the Medical College were so long allowed to

remain in the lecture room till the next lecture began. But the Doctor has now ruled that the lecture room should be closed as soon as a lecture ends, and will be re-opened only when the next lecture begins. The Military students have their own private rooms to retire to, and therefore suffer nothing on account of this arrangement. But the Native students have no choice but to pass the hours intervening between one lecture and another in wandering about the streets, exposed to the sun and rain. Dr. Bomford has also ruled that five native students will have to do night duty instead of two as before. But the number of beds for those on night duty remains the same as before, namely, two. Will not the Lieutenant-Governor save the students from these persecutions?

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

35. The *Sanjivani* of the 22nd August objects to Sir Alfred Croft's proposal

Drawing in the Calcutta University.

to raise the total number of marks for drawing in the Entrance Examination to 100. The full mark for Sanskrit is 80 and for History 60. It takes

students five or six years to study Sanskrit and not less than four years to study History.



36. Babu Jagatbandhu Bhadra, Head Master, Zillah School, Pabna, writes

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

The Pabna student's affair.

in the same paper contradicting the statement given currency to by the public prints that some students of the Pabna Zilla School assaulted the crew of a steamer, and that the steamer company have made up their minds to prosecute them. The fact is that on the 18th July last a few young urchins of seven and eight threw mud and stone at the steamer crew by way of sport. The steamer company complained to the Magistrate, but he did not think it necessary to take any other steps than to ask the Head Master to warn the boys. On the 14th July there was an altercation between one Babu Surendra Nath Rai and the *sarang* of the steamer. Two boys of the Zillah School were present on the occasion. But there was no assault or any other thing whatever of a serious nature. It is not true that the steamer has ceased stopping at the Pabna *ghât* owing to molestation by the students. It is the lowness of the river's water which has prevented the steamer from coming to the Pabna landing station.

37. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 22nd August says that it is idle to hope

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

Government's neglect of Muham-  
madan education.

that education will make any progress among Muhammadans so long as their boys are taught by Hindu teachers and in the same classes with Hindu boys. The paucity of Musalman inspecting officers is also a great desideratum of Muhammadan education. For some years one or two Musalman Assistant Inspectors have, indeed, been appointed, but what can they do against a host of Hindu inspecting officers who are always doing their best to divert Government aid from Muhammadan schools and maktabs and injure Muhammadan education in other ways? These appointments are, in fact, mere sops thrown to silence a community who are constantly complaining of Government's neglect of their education.

38. Mr. Prothero, Inspector of Schools, Bihar, says the *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 24th August, has proved himself a high-handed

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

Mr. Prothero, Inspector of  
Schools, Bihar.

officer by his treatment of the teachers of the Muzaffarpur Zilla School. Lately, during a visit to the Revelganj school, he suddenly lost his temper, and in the presence of the boys of the school gave a venerable Maulvi a good many slaps and a good many blows with clenched fist, an act which is calculated to produce a very demoralising effect on the boys.

39. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash* of the 24th August says that

SOM PRAKASH,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

Mrs. Wheeler, Inspectress of  
Schools

in the course of a recent inspection of the Sura Sashtitala Girls' School, Mrs. Wheeler asked the girls what the word "সিতাঙ্গিনী" meant. On receiving the answer, she pointed out to the girls that "সিতাঙ্গিনী" was an incorrect form, the correct word being "শ্বেতাঙ্গিনী." On another occasion when inspecting the same school, the erudite Inspectress told the girls that "শ্বেতঙ্গ" was an incorrect form of the word "শ্বেতাঙ্গ," and was used by people who had no knowledge of the Bengali language. Such is the learning of the Inspectress! How can Bengalis make any progress in education if their girls are not taught Bengali by learned women like Mrs. Wheeler? Government should maintain such learned women by other means than by taking the blood of young girls for their sake. If Mrs. Wheeler has any sense of duty she ought to acquire a sufficient knowledge of Bengali.

40. The same paper cannot believe that a just ruler like Sir Alexander

SOM PRAKASH.

Sir Alfred Croft's successor.

Mackenzie will do so great an injustice to the officers of the Education Department as to appoint a civilian as Director of Public Instruction after Sir Alfred Croft. The post should be given to an old and experienced officer of the department possessed of character and reputation as an educational officer.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

41. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first fortnight of *Asar* has been astonished

TRIPURA PRAKASH  
for the first fort-  
night of Asar, 1303,  
(B.S.)

The District Board election in  
Tippera.

at Mr. Radice's conduct in interfering with the Comilla Local Board's election of members for the District Boards. Mr. DeLanney is an independent



and spirited man, but he should not have superseded the claims of another able member. This case shows how official interference is doing harm to the cause of Local Self-Government.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,  
for the second fortnight of Asar, 1303,  
(B.S.)

42. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of *Asar* cannot understand on what grounds Mr. Radice held the Comilla Local Board's election of Members for the District Board to be informal. He ordered a re-election, which resulted in Babu Nabin Chandra Chakravarti, an able and energetic member of the District Board who had been re-elected, being thrown out, and Mr. Radice himself being elected in his place. It is hoped that neither the Divisional Commissioner nor the Lieutenant-Governor will approve of Mr. Radice's interference with the election, and that Babu Nabin Chandra will be nominated for a membership by Government.

The Sub-divisional Officer of Brahmanbaria, too, interfered in a most unwarrantable manner with the election there. The candidate against whom the Sub-divisional Officer's efforts were directed will probably bring the affair to Government's notice.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 17th, 1896.

43. In the course of his tour, says the *Charu Mihir* of the 17th August, the Lieutenant-Governor endeavoured to re-assure the people by telling them that if taxes for water-supply were imposed, they should not be imposed in such a manner as to be felt as a hardship. But not even this assurance has removed the people's fears. Even the blood-sucking leech drops off when it can suck no more, but a tax once imposed in India never goes away.

One great good, however, has come of His Honour's tour. Rich people have been induced by seeing the bent of His Honour's mind to come forward to remove water scarcity instead of frittering away their charity on worthless objects; and the District Boards, too, have resolved to spend more for the same purpose. It is hoped that these two resources will be enough to cope with the evil, and will obviate the necessity of fresh taxation.

It will be time to consider the advisability of imposing fresh taxes when these two resources will have been exhausted.

CHARU MIHIR.

44. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Nagarbari in the Mymensingh district, says that the action of the District Magistrate of Mymensingh in requiring, through the agency of the inspecting pandits, the pandits of pathsalas to ascertain the number of tanks and wells required in every village and the sites on which they should be excavated, is calculated to foil the object of the enquiry. In certain places the inspecting pandits have requested the pathsala pandits to name the sites in which tanks and wells, if excavated, will benefit only the relatives and acquaintances of the inspecting pandits in question.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Aug. 19th, 1896.

45. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 19th August says that on the 15th August last a proclamation was made by beat of tom-tom within the Berhampore Municipality to this effect—"৬ আইন জারি হইয়াছে, যদি কাহারও আপত্তি থাকে, তবে ১ মাস মধ্যে তাহা জানাইতে হইবে" (Act VI has been enforced; if any one has any objection, it should be made known within a month). What the object of making such proclamation in this manner can be, none but the authorities can say. The people for whom it was intended, nay, many of the Commissioners themselves, do not know what Act VI is about. What harm would have been done by explaining in the proclamation the nature of the Act in question? As it was, the proclamation was made in the most perfunctory manner, as if only to fulfil some formal requirements of the law. This is not the first time that a proclamation has been made in this manner.

SAMAY,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

46. The *Samay* of the 21st August draws the attention of the Calcutta Municipality to the sweetmeat shops in the city. In these stalls sweetmeats are kept uncovered for the purpose of display. They become soiled and covered with dust. Prepared as they generally are with very unwholesome materials, they become much more unwholesome by being kept uncovered for days together. The eating of these sweetmeats is undermining the health of the Calcutta people, and is



producing among them innumerable diseases and ailments. The Municipality should take steps to remedy this state of things. The sweetmeat-sellers should be required to take out licenses under the condition that they will keep their sweetmeats covered, and if they break this condition their licenses should be taken away.

47. The *Hitavadi* of the 21st August has received many serious charges against the North Dum-Dum Municipality, the affairs of which are said to be grossly mismanaged for want of proper supervision. One correspondent says that while a necessary work like repair of roads cannot be undertaken for want of funds, instances of waste of money are far from being rare. A carriage-hire expense of one rupee and thirteen annas has been known to have been incurred for reconciling a discrepancy of only one pie in the accounts, and 8 to 10 rupees has been known to be spent in travelling to Calcutta and back for getting an order for a cheap atlas promptly executed. All this, if true, reflects the greatest discredit on the Municipal authorities.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

48. Referring to the proposed permissive taxation for water-supply, the *Bangavasi* of the 22nd August observes that water-scarcity in Bengal is entirely due to the growing irreligiousness of the Indian people. One of the articles of the Hindu creed is to give water to the thirsty—to dig tanks and wells. This religious injunction is now observed more in the breach than in the observance. The inevitable consequence is water scarcity. This evil is of the people's own making; and the Lieutenant-Governor cannot remove it, try as he may. The proposed taxation, it is almost sure, will not remove water-scarcity, but will prove an instrument of oppression and a fruitful source of strife and dissension among village people.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

49. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 18th August has the following:—

The proposed Burdwan-Katwa Railway.

The East Indian Railway Company has proposed to construct a railway from Burdwan to Katwa. The route sanctioned by it is a round about one and passes through a tract of country which is far from being populous. Near it are a few small straggling villages, such as Karjana and Haripur. The Company should not count upon any traffic from these villages. The railway will not pay if it takes the sanctioned route. If, on the other hand, it is carried straight, it will pass through such populous and prosperous villages as Plassey, Kurmun, Barhabalun, Nasigram, Bhatakul, Ushirgram, and Srikanda. If this straight route is followed, the Company will not have to construct a bridge on the Gour, and the line will be shorter by a mile and-a-half. The line will also command a large traffic, and the Company will realize large profits. If a station is opened at Karjana only a few villages will be served, while about a hundred important villages will be served by a station at Kurmun. The proposed stations at Bhatar, Haripur, &c., will command traffic from villages within three or four miles, while if stations are opened at Barhabalun, Kshirgram, &c., they will command traffic from villages within ten or twelve miles. There is no railway to the east of the Katwa road, but there is the loop-line to the west of it. If the line is laid straight, four instead of the proposed six stations will do. It is difficult to understand why the round about route has been selected, when there is a straight, paying and less expensive route available. The only recommendation for the selected route is that it is very easy to carry on survey operations through it. It is hoped that the Company will examine the merits of the route proposed by the writer before finally sanctioning the construction of a line.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 18th, 1896.

50. The *Hitavadi* of the 21st August has received the following letter from

The enquiry into a railway complaint.

the office of the Agent of the East Indian Railway Company regarding a railway complaint which it published some time ago (see Report on Native Papers of the 8th August, 1896, paragraph 43).

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.



*In replying refer to No. 7301.*

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY, AGENT'S OFFICE,  
Calcutta, 11th August 1896.

To—The Editor of the *Hitavadi*, 70 Colootolah Street, Calcutta.

SIR,

I am directed to inform you that Babu Lakhy Narain complained of the behaviour of the guard to the General Traffic Manager who ordered an enquiry to be made. Babu Lakhy Narain was asked to attend the enquiry, but failed to do so. The Post Office sorters whom he cited as witnesses of the misconduct were questioned, but did not support his story.

Yours faithfully,

H. RENDEL,

By order.

The writer cannot blame the railway authorities in this matter, for they can do nothing if the complainant does not appear or the witnesses whom he has cited do not dare to tell the truth. He must, however, say that the authorities should pay more attention to the security of female passengers. They should bear in mind that the people of this country are very loath to make known any affront to their women, and that railway officers sometimes suppress the truth in order to save their guilty colleagues or subordinates.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

51. The same paper has received the following letter from the office of the Agent of the East Indian Railway Company regarding the inconveniences of passengers at the Kalipahari station:—

*In replying refer to No. 7403.*

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY, AGENT'S OFFICE,  
Calcutta, 14th August 1896.

To—The Editor, *Hitavadi*, Calcutta.

Sir,

I am desired to inform you that as there are very few passengers at Kalipahari, the existing platform is found to answer all reasonable requirements.

As regards the locking of carriage doors, the matter has been enquired into, and arrangements are being made to leave certain third-class compartments on each train stopping there unlocked on leaving Raniganj for the convenience of the passengers for Kalipahari.

Yours faithfully,

H. RENDEL,

By order.

The proposed arrangement will benefit only intending third-class passengers, but not those who intend to travel in other classes. The generous Agent should attend to this matter himself instead of depending upon the Traffic Superintendent.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

52. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 22nd August complains of the bad condition of the Tentulia Road, in the Jalpaiguri district. It is 16 miles long and runs from Tentulia to Siliguri. It forms a part of the road from Karhagola to Siliguri. The Government pays the District Board Rs. 5,000 a year for its repair, but the metalling is badly done. The bed of the Mahananda, which flows along the road, contains stone metal. The road is metalled with this stone, but the contractors charge for the carriage of such stone as if it has to be brought from a long distance. Those portions only of the road are metalled which are in the



vicinity of the river. The other portions are never repaired, and have become almost impassable. Last year only two miles of the road were metalled, and this year another two miles are going to be repaired. The portions of the road near the river are metalled even if they require no repair, while those portions which badly need repair are not metalled because they are at a distance from the river.

The wooden bridges in the Bhutan Duars are in a most rickety condition. Most of them give way during the rains. Some of the bridges on the Nagarkata and Gayarkata Roads are made partly of new and partly of old timber. But the contractors have been paid the price of new timber. Most of the bridges have been built by Sivachandra Biswas, maternal uncle of the Engineer, Gagan Babu.

(h)—General.

53. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first fortnight of *Asar* says that the Sub-Registrar of Nachhira-nagar, in the Tippera district, has become too old to manage his work properly, and his office staff have become extremely corrupt. A complaint has been laid before the District Registrar by Babu Mahesh Chandra Dutta.

TRIPURA PRAKASH  
for the first fortnight  
of Asar, 1303, (B.S.)

54. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of *Asar*, requests Mr. Radice, District Magistrate of Tippera, and the Inspector-General of Registration to appoint Tippera men to the five new Rural Sub-Registrar-ships which are about to be created. The claims of the men of that district to appointments as Sub-Registrars have been systematically neglected.

TRIPURA PRAKASH  
for the second fortnight  
of Asar, 1303,  
(B.S.)

55. In reference to the Muhammadan complaint that Muhammadans are not more largely employed in the public service, the *Charu Mihir* of the 17th August would ask the Musalmans why the Musalman zamindars of Bengal, whose number is not few, employ more Hindu than Musalman amla. The fact is that the superior ability of the Hindus secures them a larger share of both public and private appointments. The Musalman zamindar's practice of preferring Hindus for his service should silence the Musalman community in relation to the Government. That complaint is rather a strange one, seeing that Government is often believed to be disposed more in favour of than against the Musalmans.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 17th, 1896.

56. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 23rd August says that a boy of Subhadra, in the Dacca district, having broken his arm, was brought to the Dacca hospital at 11 A.M., but was not attended to till 4 P.M. He remained in hospital for five days, but for want of proper treatment died of tetanus.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Aug. 23rd, 1896.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

57. The *Hitavadi* of the 21st August says that even Sir Charles Elliott declared the interpellation system to be beneficial alike to Government and the people. It is not, therefore, easy to understand why the *Indian Mirror*, which is a leading paper in the country, should agitate against it. It is also painful to see a crowd of people condemning the system on the *Mirror's* authority.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

The writer cannot for himself see that the right of interpellation has been abused in any instance. Everybody must admit that the interpellations have been, on the whole, seasonable and serviceable, and that such defects as there were in them were trifling when compared with the good which they have been the means of effecting. Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose, for instance, made an interpellation on the subject of the grievances of the passengers of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Some will perhaps say 'what a pity that a member of the Bengal Council should not know that the Bengal Government has no control over that railway, and that he should waste the time of the Council by making an interpellation relating to a matter in which that Government cannot interfere. But the mistake the Hon'ble Member made was, after all, venial and did not make his motive in making it the less laudable.



So long after the introduction of this right, native papers have taken the cue from the Anglo-Indian press and begun to complain that interpellations cause waste of time. A sitting of the Council lasts for 4 or 5 hours, of which not more than 20 to 25 minutes are taken up with interpellations. Is this great waste of time? In four months there have been not more than 40 to 50 interpellations. Is the number of interpellations so very large? Interpellations serve many useful purposes. They enable the people to learn the views of Government, terrify oppressors, and awaken hope in the hearts of the oppressed. It is surely our ill-luck that a wise paper like the *Mirror* should find fault with the interpellation system. Some of the papers are, however, finding fault with the system simply from malicious motives. Just mark how a Brahmo paper has betrayed its malice:—"Among the members of the Council, Surendra Babu is pestering people by often making frivolous interpellations with the view of spreading the fame of a paper which looks to him for countenance."

It is for the public to judge whether the interpellations, which Babu Surendranath based on statements made in the *Hitavadi* were frivolous, and whether the Hon'ble Member has pestered them with such interpellations. Government has had to admit in every instance the correctness of the *Hitavadi's* statements, and it has often promised to remedy the evils complained of. *Hitavadi* is not also the only paper on the statements of which the Hon'ble Member has based his interpellations. Many other papers have been similarly honoured by him.

58. The *Sanjivani* of the 22nd August has the following:—

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

The debate on the Municipal  
Act Amendment Bill.

There was a great commotion among the official members of the Bengal Legislative Council in its meeting of the 8th August. The Select Committee recommended that the mufassal municipalities should have the power to spend money on the training of lady-doctors and veterinary surgeons. In Bengal there are schools for the training of lady-doctors only in Dacca and Calcutta, and the only veterinary school in all Bengal is in Calcutta. This being the case, the money spent by mufassal municipalities for these purposes will be money spent outside their jurisdiction. Now, there is a provision in the Bengal Municipal Act that no municipal money can be spent outside the jurisdiction of a municipality without the consent of three-fourths of the Commissioners. There being no such provision in the section under notice, Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose proposed, with a view to prevent inconsistency, that the mufassal municipalities might spend money on education with the consent of two-thirds of the Commissioners. Mr. Risley, the Mover of the Bill, became very much offended with Mr. Bose for his pointing out the inconsistency of the recommendation of the Select Committee. Mr. Bose maintained that the official members might outvote him, but they could not, as they were about to do, go against the law. Sir Charles Paul, the President of the meeting, supported Mr. Bose's amendment, and observed that the official members could not refute his argument. The official members were alarmed, and moved for the dissolution of the meeting. The whole body of official members had to yield to the irrefutable arguments of a single non-official member.

At the meeting of the 15th August, Babu Madhusudan Das proposed to amend the section in the Bill, which provided that even in religious processions music would not be allowed without a license. Sir Charles Paul, the President of the meeting, pointed out that the executive had no power to force a religious procession to take out a license for music, as that would go against section 43 of an Act passed by the Supreme Council, in virtue of which no license need be taken out for a musical procession for religious purposes. Mr. Risley had, after this, no other alternative than to yield. People under the jurisdiction of mufassal municipalities have thus been saved from a source of trouble and harassment.

At the same meeting Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose proposed that every municipality should lay out a ground for the sports and physical exercise of the rate-payers. Mr. Risley opposed the proposal on the ground that it could not be considered without consulting the municipalities, and that the public squares would serve the purpose contemplated by Mr. Bose. Many official and non-official members supported Mr. Risley, but Mr. Bose refuted all their arguments,



and the President supported him. The official members had, therefore, to accept Mr. Bose's proposal in a slightly amended form.

The last scene at this meeting was the strangest of all. Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose proposed that the tax on wheeled conveyances should be shared by the municipalities through whose jurisdiction taxed conveyances pass. This was a very just and equitable proposal. The proposed practice is observed in the Calcutta and Suburban municipalities. The absence of such a practice in the mufassal municipalities leads to a very undesirable result. Carts and other wheeled conveyances damage the roads in the jurisdiction of one municipality, while the tax on them may be exclusively enjoyed by another.

Mr. Bose's just proposal was, however, opposed by Mr. Risley and Babu Surendra Nath Banerji. The latter said that it was impossible to prevent all forms of injustice. There must be some form of injustice or other left in the world, and there was no means of removing it. And this from the President of the Indian National Congress! If it is impossible to prevent all forms of injustice, what is your National Congress for? Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee tried his best to please Mr. Risley, but Mr. Bose refuted all his arguments, and Mr. Risley had to yield at last. Babu Surendra Nath had to make a sorry figure. We are really very sorry for him.

59. Referring to Mr. Gladstone's interpellation regarding roads in Garden Reach, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd August observes that whatever the Hon'ble

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 23rd, 1896.

Mr. Gladstone's interpellation. Member's motive, it does not certainly possess great importance or usefulness of a widespread nature. The Anglo-Indian papers do not find fault with this interpellation. But they find fault with many questions of much greater importance asked by native members. Mr. Gladstone might bring the bad condition of the Garden Reach roads to the notice of the municipality concerned instead of bringing it to the notice of the Government.

60. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 23rd August has the following:—

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Aug. 23rd, 1896.

The proposed amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

It is almost a matter of every-day experience that owing to their inability to realise the rents due from their tenants, many zamindars find their valuable estates sold for arrears of land revenue, or for the satisfaction of their debts. The reason why they are unable to realise their rents may be thus stated:—(1) Under the Tenancy Act it is almost impossible for a zamindar to recover the rent to which he is justly entitled. As shown by Mr. Luttmann-Johnson, the average rent paid by each raiyat in the Dacca Division is only Re. 1-1. And in not a few cases the party entitled to this rent is not one person, but many. Even if the sum is due to one person and the raiyat is not willing to pay it, the expenses of a suit against him only in the Court of first instance will amount to at least ten rupees, while an appeal is not likely to be finished at less than fifty rupees. The pleader's fees laid down in the law are too small to make the services of a legal practitioner available. The cost actually incurred by a suitor in paying his pleader and muharrirs is never decreed by the courts. In fact, in a suit of the value of one rupee, which costs the plaintiff ten rupees, he is allowed five rupees at most. Now, it is not always that a person can put up with so much loss for the purpose of realising by litigation the small amount of one rupee, and the result is that rents are not realised from most tenants. The course generally followed by the zamindars in these matters is that they occasionally sue such of the tenants for arrears of rent as, owing to their poverty, would find it simply ruinous to pay the amount decreed against them as rent, although the sum so decreed is often only a small fraction of that which is claimed by the plaintiff-zamindar.

It is thus clear that the provision for realising rents by means of litigation, while it serves the purposes of the zamindar but imperfectly, not unoften produces the most injurious consequences as regards the raiyats themselves. But as the latter always act in concert and combination against their landlords, the chances of any immediate loss or injury to any individual raiyat are but small. The case is otherwise with the zamindar. If a zamindar has to sue a thousand raiyats in order to recover as many rupees of rent, he must spend at least ten thousand rupees for this purpose. And to meet this heavy expense he has to incur debt and bankruptcy. We therefore propose that some such provision as the following should be made in the Tenancy Act:—



Whenever not less than one year's rent shall fall into arrears, the landlord may apply to the Court for the recovery of the same, together with any other sums that may have become rightfully due to him by the sale of the land, in respect of which the arrear shall have accrued. The Court shall thereupon issue a notice to the defaulting raiyat, calling upon him to make any objections he may have to the application on a day to the specified in the notice, not being less than a month, or more than two months, from the date thereof. On the day so appointed, the Court shall, after hearing the raiyat's objections, or in the event of his making no objections, after satisfying itself as to the amount really due to the applicant, issue a further notice specifying the amount payable by the raiyat, and ordering that if he does not pay it together with costs, the land liable for the arrears shall be sold on the day mentioned in the said notice. If the money is not paid before the day fixed for the sale, the Court shall on that day cause the land to be sold, and then and there from the sale-proceeds pay the amount due to the zamindar, together with his costs. Provided that not more than three months shall elapse between the date of the application and the date on which the sale is held and the applicant zamindar is paid out of the sale-proceeds.

Some such provision as the above would obviate the unnecessary expense and delay now incurred in the execution of decrees. Nor would the proposed arrangement, if accepted, do harm to any party, because the Court would determine the amount payable by the raiyat only after hearing and considering the arguments of each party. It is extremely unjust that while under the sunset law the proprietary rights of the zamindar are sold for arrears of land revenue, there should be no speedy and summary procedure enabling him to realise the arrears of rents due from his raiyats. The object with which sections 150, 151 and 152 of the Tenancy Act were framed has been completely frustrated. It was doubtless the intention of the Legislature that by requiring the raiyat to deposit in Court the rent admitted by him to be due to his landlord as a condition of his being allowed to contest the landlord's claim, the sections in question would operate as a check upon the delay and the difficulty which attended the realisation of their rents by the zamindars. But the result has been the very opposite of what was intended. In a case, for instance, where the zamindar claims one hundred rupees, the raiyat admits only one rupee as due to him, and he deposits this amount and proceeds to contest the claim. There is protracted litigation, and the zamindar is not able to get his dues until two or three years have elapsed since the institution of his suit. It is this delay and difficulty in recovering their rents that involve the zamindars in debt and bankruptcy.

Dacca Gazette,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

61. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 24th August does not consider that the right of interpellation has been at all abused. Considering that an exercise of this right by the Members of the Legislative Councils is the only means of keeping the officials in this subject country in the right path, the questions which have to this time been put in the Councils cannot be called too many. Nay, if the Sessions of the Councils had not been so rare, and of so short a duration as they are now, the writer would have liked a larger number of questions being put, as information on many important subjects is not now asked for for want of time. Besides, can any one point out any evil effect that has been produced by an exercise of the right?

Dainik-o-Samachar  
Chandrika,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

62. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 24th August has the following:—  
Our Government is a despotism and completely separate from and independent of the subject people. And yet the right (the right of interpellation) that we have obtained is one which has not been yet given to the people of many free countries. But are those people unhappy and discontented because they have not had conferred upon them this right which is pre-eminently a mark of freedom, and a proof and indication of popular power? Do they not call their country their own or their sovereign their own? It is well known that the people of those countries are perfectly happy and contented. And fortunate recipients of the favour of the liberal English Government as we are, how happily do we find ourselves able to spend our days. Has this privilege which has been conferred on us led to a removal of all our woes and grievances?



Have internal dissensions, poverty, lawlessness, and the many other ills that afflict us, been in the least removed from our country and society? Not an iota of the seething mass of misery has disappeared or been removed. And the reason is that we cannot grapple with the causes of this misery from any effective stand-point, and hence we make no efforts to obtain any remedy. We can only interpellate, and even embarrass the officials and put up with their rude replies without feeling in the least abashed. Three things are required to make an interpellation successful or instructive. The interpellator must know what he is about, must be a man of influence, and must feel an interest in the subject of his interpellation. Now, it is not possible for us to be acquainted with the policy or the details of the administration. The Government does not and will not probably at any time let us know the real objects and reasons of its measures. We are not therefore aware why and how any particular measure is being adopted. When in these circumstances we ask a question, we necessarily stand convicted of our ignorance before the public. That we lack influence is a fact patent to everybody. What we call oppression and ask the rulers to remedy is never remedied or removed by them if it is supposed to be in any way calculated to enhance the authority or prestige of the Government. Far from checking such oppression, Government has been rather found to encourage the oppressor by granting him promotion in the service. So much for the influence of the interpellator. As for feeling an active interest in the subject of interpellation, it is a fact that we feel no such interest at all. For a matter in which a person cannot conceive that he has any self-interest, which appears to him as mere *begar*, or which he is accustomed to regard as something fit to occupy the time and energies of only a servant, is enough to damp the energy and enthusiasm of even a Napoleon. And yet we have obtained the right of interpellation, that privilege of a free people!

The Honourable Members of the Legislative Councils have all received English education. They all dress like Englishmen, live in the style of Englishmen, are full of English ideas and are fired with the English notion of independence. They ask questions in the Legislative Councils on the model of the interpellations made in the British House of Commons. Ours is a Hindu country. It is a country of poor people. Those that indulge in high living and are anglicised in their habits cannot correctly understand or interpret our wants and grievances. While it is only proper and becoming that a poor people who cannot command two full meals a day should, with joined hands, with tears in their eyes and in plaintive tones, represent their woes to their august Empress, the attitude taken up by them in the Legislative Councils is one of blustering defiance, which they have copied from other people. This is improper, and is a proof of their want of foresight. The people were dying of thirst. The Lieutenant-Governor courteously told the Council that His Honour had neither the money nor the ability to save the people from so vast a calamity, and that the revenues at his disposal were to be spent on roads, big public buildings and other public works. The speech silenced the milk-and-water-drinking honourables, and the people's thirst was allayed.

Here an impulsive boy-Magistrate does something improper, there some official says something which he ought not to have said, and forthwith there is a hue and cry raised all over the country. It is of course desirable that the careless should be warned, that the indiscreet should be admonished, but it is never wise to carry these matters too far. Do not make a mountain of a mole-hill. Where you have got very little, do not try to make too much of it.

Indeed, the people for whose benefit the right of interpellation was granted have been thrown perfectly overboard. What shall we say? Nobody looks at the people, talks to them, or feels strengthened in their strength and honoured by their support. Nobody weeps for them. The villages in Bengal are on the high road to ruin, and this once-smiling land is being turned into a veritable cremation ground. And yet the people are being saddled with an increasing burden of rights and privileges. Must we not therefore rejoice and say that we are happy?



DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 25th, 1896.

63. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 25th August says that in consequence of Mr. Gladstone's question in the Bengal Council regarding the condition of the Garden Reach roads, the South Suburban Municipality has been pressed to act in the matter. People have heard questions put in Council by Native Members, and here was a question put by a European Member. What a difference in the results achieved by the former and the latter respectively. But there is nothing to wonder at in this.

Different effects of Native and European interpellations in the Bengal Council.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

64. The *Hitavadi* of the 21st August says that attempts are being made in some quarters to get Rai Kantichandra Mukharji Bahadur, Prime Minister of Jeypore, dismissed. Bengali Ministers in Native States have become an eyesore to the Politicals, because the latter cannot on their account convert Native Princes into puppets. Some of them would even go the length of refusing Bengalis admission into those States. Everybody knows how the Maharaja of Kashmir has been treated after Babu Nilambar Mukharji's removal from that State. The fate of the Raja of Patna and the Maharaja of Jhalwar is also known to the public. The rumour that an attempt is being made to get Kanti Babu dismissed naturally excites alarm. The Government of India is requested to enquire impartially into any charges that may be brought by the Politicals against the Jeypore Minister.

The Bengali Prime Minister of Jeypore.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Aug. 23rd, 1896.

65. The *Dainik-o Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd August has the following:—

Jeypore.

The *Bombay Times* has raised its voice against Jeypore and the *Indian Daily News* is singing to its strain. It is characteristic of the *Indian Daily News*. It is a Bengali that is at the root of this agitation against Jeypore. A Bengali Engineer, Parbati Charan Chatterji, made the Maharana of Jhalwar incur the Political Agent's displeasure. A Bengali Prime Minister was at the root of the misfortunes of the Maharaja of Kashmir. And Patiala, it is an open secret, became sometime ago an eyesore to the Anglo-Indians for the sake of a Bengali.

One Hari Mohan Sen, writes the *Indian Daily News*, went to Jeypore and rose to be its Prime Minister. It is he that gave away big posts to his Bengali friends and relatives. This is characteristic of the Bengali race.

The *Indian Daily News* could not fall so low in the hands of Mr. James Wilson. The Anglo-Indian paper has not shown good manners by speaking contemptuously of Babu Hari Mohan Sen, the late Dewan of the Bengal Bank, and the worthy son of a worthy father, the late Babu Ram Kamal Sen. Babu Hari Mohan was wellknown even to the Anglo-Indian community for his liberality and public spirit. Before the East Indian Railway was opened, Babu Hari Mohan made travelling easy by running stage coaches in the North-Western Provinces. Babu Hari Mohan introduced many desirable reforms into the administration of the Jeypore State. The Bengalis who were employed by him were all able men. Some of them are still the props of the State. Can you find abler men than Babu Sansar Chandra Sen or Rai Bahadur Kanti Chandra Mukharji? It is these Bengalis that have made Jeypore what it is—a model Native State in India! Are not Anglo-Indian officials in the habit of patronising their countrymen? Talk of the favouritism of the Bengali race! Has not the country of the Hindus and Musalmans been swamped by Englishmen? In England a man is praised if he can rise from a low to a high position, but in India such a man is abused! The Anglo-Indian papers are vilifying the Maharaja of Jeypore as well. This is certainly a bad sign. They are trying to excite the anger of the Government against Jeypore. There is danger in store for the Maharaja.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,  
for the second fortnight of Asar, 1303,  
(B.S.)

66. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of Asar says that for want of rain the paddy plants are dying and jute is remaining unsteeped. The prospect is gloomy in the extreme, as rice is already selling at a

Prospects of the crops in Tippera and distress in Noakhali.



famine price, and money cannot be had at a monthly interest of even two annas per rupee. Scarcity has become most acute in the Hatia Island, where people have been able to live up to this time solely owing to the sympathetic and energetic efforts of the District Magistrate of Noakhali.

67. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 18th August fears that there will be widespread scarcity in 1897, and the suffering of the people will be great. There was no rain last

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 18th, 1896.

The impending scarcity. year, and the suffering peasants went out of their homes in search of employment, leaving their lands uncultivated. This year they have partly cultivated their lands, but the crops are all but destroyed owing to want of rain. If the crops fail, as they are most likely to do, the raiyats will be in dire distress. They will not have the wherewithal to pay rent and feed their family. They have not yet been able to pay off the money they borrowed last year from the *mahajans*, and they cannot expect to get anything this year in the shape of money or corn from the latter.

The condition of the middle-classes is equally distressful. Every middle-class man has to eke out his small salary by cultivating a few bighas of land. Last year his land yielded nothing, and he had to depend entirely on his salary. He was therefore obliged to borrow. With a burden of debt already on his head, the prices of food-stuffs rising, he will be at a loss to make the two ends meet. The talukdars, too, are at their wit's end. Last year they could not collect rent from their raiyats, and had to pawn the ornaments of their ladies in order to pay the land revenue. But this year if the crops fail and they are unable to collect rent from the raiyats, it will be impossible for them to save their estates.

The impending scarcity of food will be accompanied by a water-scarcity. Last year the tanks and wells had all dried up, and they have not been refilled this year. The prospects are certainly very gloomy.

68. Several correspondents of the same paper write that scarcity is likely to break out very soon in Barhabalun, in the Burdwan district. Last year there was a two-anna

BURDWAN SANJIVANI-

Crops in Burdwan. crop, and this year the crops are sure to fail for want of rain. Even if there be rain now, it will not benefit the crops much. Last year people lived by borrowing. But the *mahajans* are not likely to lend them money this year. There are about one thousand families in the village, but only ten or fifteen of them have stocks of grain. It has been ascertained from a reliable source that about four or five families had actually to starve for two or three days, and they were saved by a few kind-hearted young men, who gave them rice to eat. Starvation has thus actually commenced. People will have to wait for a whole year before they can expect to reap another crop. Rice has become scarce. It cannot be had either for love or for money. The impending scarcity will be of unprecedented severity. To scarcity of food scarcity of water will be added.

Relief measures should be at once taken in hand. About three years ago the District Board sanctioned the construction of a cart road from Kul Chander to Barhabalun. If the construction of this road is commenced, many people will be provided for. If the railway from Burdwan to Katwa be taken up soon, it will be of immense benefit to the people. If the Board dig or request a rich man to dig a tank in the village, many people will be employed, and water-scarcity in the village will be removed.

Another correspondent of the same paper writes that the prospects of the crops in the Kurhmun, in the Burdwan district, are extremely gloomy. Very few bighas of land have been cultivated, and the crops on even these few bighas are going to be destroyed for want of rain. Water-scarcity also is keenly felt in the village. There is water in two tanks with which the neighbouring fields can be cultivated, but the owners of these tanks are not willing to allow them to be drained. The distress of the people is very great. Many are already living on one meal a day. The talukdars are helping the inhabitants of five or six villages with loans of money, but they will not be able to help them long. Help from the Government is urgently needed.



MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

69. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 22nd August says that in the prevailing scarcity within the jurisdiction of the Kaliganj thana, in the Khulna district, Babu Girijanath Rai Chaudhuri, zamindar of Satkhira, and Babu Jatindranath Rai Chaudhuri, zamindar of Taki, have lent considerable sums of money to their raiyats. Government, too, has advanced one thousand rupees; but distributed at the rate of four rupees per family, the help was neither far-reaching nor sufficient to meet the wants of those who received it. A large number of people, who did not succeed in getting an advance, were assured by the Deputy Magistrate that he would write to Government, and in ten or twelve days would render them help. But considering that owing to insufficient rainfall the prospects of the *aman* crop are extremely gloomy, and that even if it turns out better than is expected, it will not be for full three months yet, a loan of four rupees or less to each family will be quite inadequate to keep the raiyats living till they gather the next harvest. The correspondent does not also know how to explain the conduct of certain people who call themselves gentlemen, and foremost among whom is Babu Barada Prasad Basu, *naib* of the Bajitpur pargana of the Satkhira estate, who, in some cases, tried to dissuade the Deputy Magistrate from advancing loans to some people and in others endeavoured to dissuade the people from taking loans.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 22nd, 1896.

70. The *Sanjivani* of the 22nd August takes a gloomy view of the prospects of the crops in several parts of Bengal. Rain is wanted in Kaligram, in the Rajshahi district. The jute crop has not yet been reaped, there being no water to steep jute plants in. *Roa* rice has not yet been sown. Rice is selling at *kunchi* fourteen seers per rupee. There is a cry for rain in Barhpeta, Assam. There has been very little sowing of the *aman* rice. The rice market is rising. The prospects of the crops are most unsatisfactory in Korhamara, in the Khulna district. The betel-nut trees have been all but destroyed. In Ashmali, in the Ranaghat subdivision of the Nadia district, the *aus* crop has dried up for want of rain. The *aman* crop will dry up if there be no rains soon. Rice is selling at Rs. 2-8 and Rs. 2-12 per maund. The crop prospects in Tirhut are very unsatisfactory. No rain. Even the *murna* crop, which requires small quantity of water for its growth has been damaged. The crop prospects are equally unsatisfactory in Nilpamari, in the Rangpur district. The jute crop cannot be sown for want of water. Coarse rice is selling at Rs. 2-10 and Rs. 2-12 per *kunchi* maund.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 17th, 1896.

71. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 17th August says that a Hindu widow of Barrackpore having been charged with stealing some cloth, was convicted and sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment by the Hon'ble Surendranath Banerji, who is an Honorary Magistrate of the Barrackpore Bench. On appeal, the Magistrate of Alipore set aside the sentence, and ordered immediate discharge of the prisoner. This shows the sympathy which the Magistrate felt for the widow. But the Indian patriot and the great pillar of the Indian National Congress, who always vents his spleen against Anglo-Indian officials, and who bitterly laments the miserable lot of the Hindu widows, failed to show his fellow feeling towards his own countrywoman.

SAHACHAR,  
Aug. 19th, 1896.

72. The *Sahachar* of the 19th August says that Sir Alexander Mackenzie's tour has benefited and will benefit the province in more ways than one. His Honour took advantage of his tour to make the acquaintance of the people, to know local wants and the condition of the province. He has frankly told the people what help they should expect from Government in supplying their wants and how far they must rely on themselves. He has told the people what their faults are, and advised them to correct them. And his advice was given in a manner which will make the people grateful to His Honour, instead of conceiving a dislike for him. Indeed, the late tour brought out the new Lieutenant-Governor in the character of an upright and strongminded ruler,



who is a well-wisher of the province which has been placed under his charge. He is not the man to tolerate wrong-doing. He is always ready to punish wrong-doers, though he would be glad to see such men themselves correct their faults.

Wherever His Honour went, he carefully considered the reasonableness or unreasonableness of the prayers which were made to him, and gave clear and firm replies. Nowhere did His Honour hesitate to speak out his mind. Everybody will be particularly pleased with his plainspeaking at Gaya, Dacca and Rampur-Boalia. The residents of those towns should take His Honour's advice as invaluable. If they do not, they will harm themselves. His exposition of his administrative policy, in his Boalia speech, has gratified the people. His statement that the principal duty of a ruler consists in keeping himself in touch with his subjects' sentiments and in sympathising with them in their wants and grievances, is the effusion of a noble soul. As Sir Alexander Mackenzie always does what he says, it is believed that he will do all he can for the good of his subjects.

Bengal's good luck has secured to it just such a ruler as was wanted under its present circumstances. The whole province is full of the new Lieutenant-Governor's praise, and all that is prayed for is that it may please God to spare him long in order to enable him to do good to his subjects and earn their gratitude.

73. The *Vikrampur* of the 20th August says that in 1895 Indian coolies returned from foreign countries with an earning of thirteen lakhs of rupees, that is to say, seven lakhs more than was brought back by coolies in the preceding year. It would be more interesting to know from Government with what savings coolies return from the Assam gardens.

VIKRAMPUR,  
Aug. 20th, 1896.

74. The same paper writes as follows:—  
India's property. India has become extremely poor. Famine after famine has so much impoverished her people that they are now crying and clamouring for food. Public expenditure has increased in all directions, but there is no corresponding growth of public revenue. The country is being drained of its food-grains, and the starving people are mad with hunger. Crores of rupees are being every year sent to foreign countries, while not even a lakh is coming. What will this state of things lead to? Three-fourths of the entire population of India cannot command two full meals a day. The old ancestral occupations do not pay any longer, and are being therefore abandoned. The country is about to be ruined. Agriculture, manufactures, trade and commerce are all at a standstill. Government should no longer sit idle, but strain every nerve to stimulate the sources of production and wealth in India by the adoption of such measures as may lead to an improvement of her agriculture, industry and commerce. It should do its best to bring food to the starving people. "If you do this, it will only increase your happiness and prosperity. It is you who will be a loser if India is overwhelmed and ruined by poverty. It will be a reproach to the British Government if India is turned into a vast cremation ground. As for ourselves, we are dying and shall die. And we feel as if death would be welcome to us. The loss, the infamy, will all be yours! We therefore pray you to save the country, to see that wealth flows into it, and to stop all wasteful spending."

VIKRAMPUR.

75. The *Suabih Dainik* of the 21st August has the following:—  
Treatment of Indians by Anglo-Indians. There is an Indian saying that the domesticated cat becomes wild if it goes to the forest. Englishmen in their native home are perfect gentlemen. Even the worst of them are not in the habit of cowardly beating innocent people. They are, however, sadly changed as soon as they set their foot on Indian soil. They cast overboard into the Suez Canal all their good qualities, their love and kindness, faith and sense of duty. They think that these sentiments will be of no use to them in the country of black niggers, in the country, that is, of cats and dogs! Their metamorphosis at once becomes thorough and complete. Once in this country, they begin to oppress the poor Indians!

SULABH DAINIK,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

Anglo-Indians, big or small, are all birds of the same feather. The big ones do not generally beat natives. It is very kind of them that they do not



beat. But they are not altogether free from this vice. Sometime ago, a Judge of the Allahabad High Court kicked an old woman who had prostrated herself at his feet. A European doctor assaulted his servant because he asked him for his pay, and only the other day, the senior partner of Messrs. Finlay Muir and Company destroyed a durwan's eye. These incidents are too painful to contemplate. It is beyond our comprehension how men who are meek and kind at home, whose religion enjoins them to turn the left cheek to the man who smites them on the right, can so far forget themselves and become so cruel and inhuman.

Englishmen who are of no consequence at home, whose birth is shrouded in obscurity, and whose parentage can be ascertained only from the birth register, become veritable tyrants as soon as they set their foot on Indian soil. They look down upon the Indian people and demand abject homage from them. They would beat and even kick to death natives who did not *salaam* them. It is these men who try to pass for India's conquerors and rulers! They speak of the English Empire in India as "our Empire," of the Indian army as "our army." The climax of the absurdity is reached when these homeless and parentless people put on airs of superiority, and even try to lord it over Indians of light and leading. How can these men who, after their retirement from the public service, will have to pass their days in obscurity in Europe or in Australian plantations, dare to speak contemptuously even of Indians of position? The Government in recruiting men for the public service do not in these days attach any importance to birth and position. The consequence is that the public service is being swamped by low-class men, who do not hesitate to abuse, ill-treat and kill natives of India. We pray the Government to save us from these men.

It will be a thrice-told tale to speak of the cruelties perpetrated in tea-gardens and indigo factories. European tea-planters are always in the habit of mercilessly thrashing coolies. Only the other day a tea-planter was said to have killed a cooly, mistaking him for a serpent. There are a thousand and one cruelties which are almost every day perpetrated on the people by nameless Europeans, and very few of them ever come to the notice of the Government. Here is an instance. The *Lahore Tribune* reports that in Rawal Pindi a cooly entered the railway locomotive workshop. He was not denied entrance by the door-keeper, but inside he met a European, who, coming to know that the cooly had no business there, at once fell upon him and mercilessly thrashed him. He would not have ventured to beat a man in this way in England. The generality of Englishmen in this country do not treat the natives as men but as beasts—as cats and dogs! If these men are sued in public courts, they are generally let off under the plea of provocation. Not long ago a European employé of Messrs. Burn and Company was alleged to have killed a native. The Court held that the poor man came by his death by accident. If it was a mere accident which killed the man, why was the European stated to have killed him? Is there any one in this country who can even breathe a false charge against a European?

It is our sad experience that Europeans in this country kill natives whenever they like, and the plea of provocation is a pretext. Is there no remedy for this?

76. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 25th August has the following:—

The tone of the vernacular press towards the officials.

The Anglo-Indian papers are venting their spleen against the native press. The latter, it is alleged, creates disaffection among the people, and is always busy vilifying the officials. Let the public judge how far this charge against the native press is true. We shall only show that the vilification of the native press by the Anglo-Indian papers is due to malice, pure and simple.

The relation between the officials and the people is a relation between rulers and the ruled. They have no monetary or social dealings with one another. The people can have no motive for vilifying the ruling race—no interest in painting them black. It is purely from a sense of duty that the native press has now and then to criticise, perhaps somewhat strongly, the conduct of the official class—of the judiciary as well as the executive. From the judiciary, the people expect an impartial administration of justice. From the executive they expect a fair and generous treatment. Sympathise with the people, give them justice, and they will live contented and happy. If there be



failings in your conduct, the people cannot but point them out to you. This note of complaint, this plaintive expression of sorrow, is represented by the Anglo-Indian papers as seditious and malicious writing. They want to see the native press suppressed. Like Vidyadhar Sarma, in the Indian story, who wished that all the customers of the village confectioner except himself might die so that he might have all his sweetmeats to himself, these Anglo-Indian papers would see all the native papers suppressed, so that they might enjoy a monopoly of the Government's attention. But as the village confectioner, Ganga Mayra, could not live only for Vidyadhar, the Government cannot exist only for the Anglo-Indian papers.

Is it true that the native press paint the officials black and not in their true colours? We think not. Let us cite a few instances. Mr. Phillips badly treated Raja Suryya Kanta. It was the High Court that protected the injured man. How could the Anglo-Indian papers support Mr. Phillips or justify his conduct? Is the native press to blame because it unfavourably criticised the conduct of this high-handed Magistrate? You cannot say that the European officials have no failing, no blemish in their conduct, and that it is the native press which manufactures false charges against them. Is it very wrong to point out the faults of an official?

Does not the native press give praise where praise is merited? Has it not praised Mr. Price, Magistrate of Malda, for his impartial attitude in the Hindu-Musalman quarrel? Does it not praise Mr. Geidt, the justice-loving Judge of the 24-Parnanas district? Has it not praised the conduct of Thornhill in the Burdis case. It has condemned the conduct of Mr. Blennerhasset, because he has not, in the opinion of the public, done justice in the case. Lord Ripon's name is not taken without tears of gratitude, but the names of Lord Lytton and Lord Lansdowne excite quite other different feelings in the people's mind. Why is it so? The native press has the courage to speak out the truth. It does not hesitate to condemn the conduct of officials of the type of Mr. Radice. How can the Anglo-Indian papers justify their conduct?

The thing is, the native press does not conceal the truth, while the Anglo-Indian Press does! It is this courage and truthfulness of the former that has excited the displeasure of the latter. But they may rest assured that the native press will ever enjoy their freedom under the benign British Government.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

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BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

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